Reel History of the Valley

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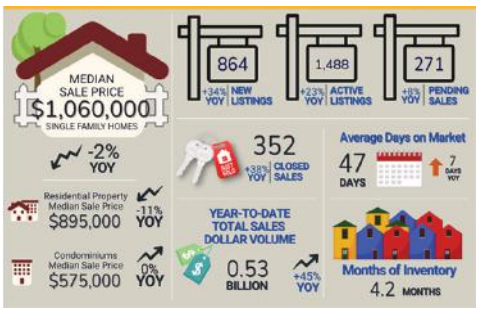


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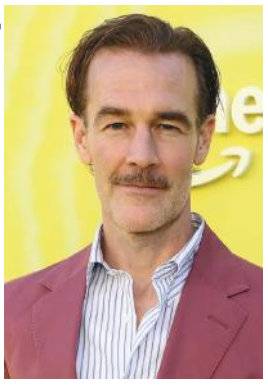


# ENCINO ENTERPRISE

Volume 6, Issue 138 | A Compendious Source of Information | February 20, 2026


# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Encino to Install Numerous "No Turn" Signs on Trial Basis to Determine Effectiveness

The Encino Property Owners Association (EPOA) is spreading the word on the impending installation of numerous "no turn" traffic signs. In an effort to try to mitigate the impacts of commuter short-cut traffic on Encino hillside residential streets, the Department of Transportation (DOT) will be installing temporary signage. This action is the result of several years of review by Councilmember Nithya Raman's office, the Encino Neighborhood Council (ENC) and EPOA in response to the peak hour morning gridlock on hillside streets. In the coming weeks and months, residents will have the opportunity to express their opinions by an email survey.

The list of turn restrictions is as follows for no turn 7 am to 10 am:

-no right Rancho St. to Louise Ave.
-no left Louise Ave. to Oak View Dr.
-no left Louise Ave. to Nance St.
-no right Hayvenhurst Ave. to Escalon Dr.
-no left Hayvenhurst Ave. to Oldham St.
-no right Libbit Ave. to Noeline Ave.
-no right Bosque Dr. to Ballina Dr.
-no right Ballina Dr. to Ballina Canyon Rd.
-no right Hayvenhurst Dr. to Ballina Dr.
-no left Hayvenhurst Dr. to Ballina Dr.
-no right Hayvenhurst Dr. to Sapphire Dr.
-no right Valley Vista Blvd. to Densmore Ave.

The list of 24-hr time restrictions for no turn is as follows:

-no right on red Ventura Blvd. to Petit Ave.
-no right on red Ventura Blvd. to Libbit Ave.
-no right on red Ventura Blvd. to Woodley Ave.

City Council District 4 will collect feedback from residents via an online survey and LADOT will collect and analyze data on traffic during the trial period. Drivers can send feedback to encinohillstraffic@lacity.org.

## Tickets for the United Chambers State of the County Luncheon Now on Sale

Tickets are now on sale for the United Chambers State of the County Luncheon on Wednesday, March 25, at 11:30 am. County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath will be the guest speaker. Reservations are required. The event will be held at Porter Valley Country Club, 19216 Singing Hills Drive. To register visit unitedchambers.org.

# Encino Councilmember Nithya Raman To Run for Mayor

A late entry into the race for L.A. Mayor is City Councilmember Nithya Raman.

Raman represents Los Angeles' 4th District, which includes from Reseda, Encino, Sherman Oaks, Studio City and Toluca Lake to Hollywood. She won election in 2020 as a progressive with the support of the Democratic Socialists of America, running on a platform of racial justice, homeless and housing reform.

She has been controversial in her office as a city councilmember, voting early against banning homeless encampments within 500 feet of schools and day care centers, and saying we should "defund the police" early in her career.

She has been compared to New York politicians Mayor Zohran Mamdani and representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, both Democratic Socialists who have fought for expanding city services.

In her sixth year on the council, her district has been plagued by crime with home invasions and burglaries spiking, and many residents blame Raman and her lack of support for LAPD. Her current platform as a mayoral candidate includes fixing basic rights for residents such as potholes and streetlights. "Los Angeles is at a breaking point," she said, "And people feel it in the most basic ways."

She also now says that the LAPD must not shrink further, and has changed her position on the city's "mansion tax," which she supported in 2022 but now says is getting in the way of more housing construction.

*Raman speaks to reporters after filing paperwork to run for Mayor. Photo: Christina House / Los Angeles Times*

Raman is an urban planner who was born in India. She moved to the United States at six years old and earned a bachelor's degree in political theory from Harvard and a masters in urban planning from MIT. She returned to India and founded a research firm to improve sanitation in the city of Chennai. In Los Angeles she headed a homeless nonprofit and the was executive director of Time's Up that supported victims of sexual harassment.

She is now looking to the base that got her elected to the council, pro-housing advocates, Yes in My Backyard supporters and Democratic Socialists. She will have a hard time with her fellow councilmembers, nine of whom have already backed Bass and feel that Raman somehow has betrayed Bass who helped her win re-election in 2024.

The mayor's race was shaken up when developer Rick Caruso and Supervisor Lindsey Horvath decided not to run after much speculation, and candidate Austin Buetner dropped out after his daughter died.

**"Los Angeles is at a breaking point," she said, "And people feel it in the most basic ways."**

**– Nithya Raman**

Candidates now include reality television star Spencer Pratt, community organizer Rae Huang, Better Angels founder Adam Miller, valley resident and businessman Robert Goodman and approximately 35 others. If no candidate wins more than 50% of the vote in June, the top two will move to a runoff.

# CALENDAR

# Community Calendar

* Tarzana Community & Cultural Center will hold a native plant fair and sale on Sunday, February 22, from 11 am to 4 pm. There will be food trucks, children's art and gardening workshops, plus music from Severin Browne & the First Friday Band and The Valley People. The center is located at 18130 Ventura Blvd.

* The Encino Property Owners Association will hold a community meeting on Thursday, March 5, at 7 pm. This special event will feature LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell as the guest speaker. A meet and greet at 6:30 will kick off the evening at the Encino Community Center (4935 Balboa Blvd).

* The West Valley Regional Library will hold the workshop "Sundowning Tips For Alzheimer's Caregivers" on Saturday, February 28, from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. In this workshop, Alzheimer's LA will discuss what sundowning is, how it affects a person with Alzheimer's, and what you can do to help. They will also provide suggestions for how to handle common challenges and situations.

* The Encino Neighborhood Council will be holding their general board meeting on Wednesday, February 25, at 7 pm. For further details, and the agenda, visit encinonc.org.

* The Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce will be holding a special mixer and reception on Tuesday, February 24, at 5:30 pm to install their new board of directors. Connect with local businesses, nonprofits, schools, and community partners while building relationships that inspire future collaboration. The event will be held at Taisho Sherman Oaks. For price details, and to RSVP, see shermanoaksencinochamber.org.

* ONEgeneration will hold a Bingo tournament on Saturday, February 28, from 10 am to 12 pm. With a $20 donation, you will receive three cards for all 10 games. ($5 for an extra pack). Doors open at 9:30 am and the event is cash only.

* Tarzana Music Night is back with another stellar lineup on Friday, February 27 at 7 pm. Musical guests include Marty Axelrod, Art Podell, Lois Blaisch, Jason Gutierrez, Brent Hahn, Tracy Newman, Sal Guitarez, Madeline Rosene, Jefferson Denim & Reed Walsh, Brad Lieberman, Jenny McNabb and Brenton Gardner. Their special guest is Puppy Breath, featuring Karen Hart, Erin Hawkins and Dizni Ruth Parish. This show will be indoors; seating is limited, so it is recommended that you purchase tickets in advance at mytarzana.org. Snacks and beverages available for purchase; admission is just $5!

* The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society will hold a special event titled "Raptor Behaviors" on Thursday, February 26, from 6:30 to 8 pm. Frank Hoffman will give a presentation on courtship behavior among birds of prey as well as other interesting raptor behaviors. Along with a slide presentation, he will be bringing live raptors to the meeting. Attendees can see the program in person at the Encino Community Center (4935 Balboa Blvd.) or via Zoom. For more info, visit sfvaudubon.org.

* Looking for a bit of reflection? The Encino Tarzana Library will hold an introduction to the mindfulness practice of gratitude journaling on Saturday, February 21, at 2 pm. This course creates a foundation for daily practice that supports you in attracting more abundance, love and happiness and can help align you with your greatest potential. For teens, ages 11-18.

* Save the date! The next blood drive at Westfield Fashion Square will be held on Tuesday, March 10, from 10 am to 4 pm. Blood donations significantly during the winter months and the American Red Cross is in dire need of donations. To make your life-saving appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

# People in the News

Valley leaders **Ken Craft**, above left, and **Albert Hernandez**, above right, will be honored at an event on Saturday, March 14.

"We are proud to honor two remarkable leaders whose hearts for service have shaped countless young lives," said Christy Pinto, President of the Rotary Club of Woodland Hills. "Ken Craft, CEO of Hope the Mission, has worked tirelessly to transform local hotels into safe housing for families with children, giving them dignity, stability and hope. Albert Hernandez, past District Governor of Rotary District 5280 and CEO of Home Again L.A., has spent years leading efforts to provide essential support and pathways to success for children and families in need," Pinto continued. "Funds raised at this event will fuel meaningful change for underserved children and youth through Rotary service initiatives."

The "Hearts in Action" evening will feature cocktails, dinner, a silent auction and the magic and mentalism of Benjamin B. It will be held at Porter Valley Country Club, 19216 Singing Hills Drive in Northridge. Tickets are $150 and available at givebutter.org/c/rotaryhearts. Proceeds will raise money for local and international service projects benefitting underserved children.

## English Channel

**By Rodger Sterling**

English Channel offers the best of the late editor Rodger Sterling's columns that ran continuously in the local papers since 1968.

• My wife is addicted to flea markets, so I keep in mind what George Carlin said: A house is just a place to keep your stuff while you go out and get more stuff.

• Which reminds me of the joke about the couple who both talked in their sleep. The husband, a golf nut, would yell out "Fore!" His wife, who loved auctions, would reply in turn, "Four and a quarter!"

• Ralph and Bob were in the locker room of the country club lamenting the disappearance of their friend, the Professor. "I always admired him because he was such a profound thinker," said Bob. "That's true," replied Ralph. "Last time I saw him he was swimming in the lake and suddenly called out 'I'm thinking! I'm thinking!'" "You dummy," roared Bob, "Didn't you know the Professor lisped?"

• Every lovely British TV show village: Population 47. Annual murders: 12.

• Thought for today: When you're in too much of a rush, you're liable to pass more than you catch up with.

• Here's one for the kids. Why was 6 afraid of 7? Because 7 8 9!

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Abbey Road
THE BEATLES TRIBUTE

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New Romantics
TAYLOR SWIFT TRIBUTE

August 9
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THE ROLLING STONES TRIBUTE

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**PHONE 818.313.9545 FAX 818.302.1417**
**Email: EncinoEnterprise@gmail.com**
**22025 Ventura Blvd. #303 Woodland Hills CA 91364**
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# Keeping "Micro Drama" Films in L.A.

**By Councilmember Blumenfield**

For well over a century, Los Angeles has been the epicenter of the entertainment industry and the San Fernando Valley has played a starring role.

Since Carl Laemmle opened Universal Studios in 1915, the Valley has served as an iconic backdrop for countless films and TV shows, but over the last decade this prosperous, job creating industry has been dissipating. Many other states and countries have offered enormous incentives to move productions around the world, and while California has boosted the original film tax credits I co-sponsored while in the State Assembly, more must be done.

Aside from these foundational economic issues, the entertainment industry has vastly evolved in other critical ways. While people consume a lot of entertainment at home rather than going to theaters, a new, bustling sub-section of the industry has emerged and we have to step up before we lose even more jobs.

"Micro Dramas" are a new type of short form content, often consumed on a phone (often vertical format), and in just the past few years have become a multi-billion dollar industry.

Usually it's a "show" where each episode is just a few minutes long with anywhere from a dozen to hundreds of episodes. While many may not be aware of these shows, millions across the world are watching them and LA needs to take it seriously and encourage more production in our backyard.

Last week the LA City Council unanimously voted on my motion to create new financial incentives to help keep lower budget "Micro Drama" productions in Los Angeles. With budgets typically under $200,000, micro-drama productions often fall below the threshold to qualify for California's state tax credits and creators are relocating to other cities to benefit from tax credits offered by other jurisdictions.

A recent survey showed 78% of local independent producers now shoot these projects outside of Los Angeles, resulting in significant loss of jobs and local revenue. This financial incentive will help create opportunities to assist vertical content creators by establishing a grant program that provides upfront funding to incentivize local production and generate local jobs.

The targeted support to micro-drama production will not only nurture a new generation of creative talent, but also help future-proof Los Angeles' position at the center of the global entertainment industry.

The motion specifically directs City departments to report to the Council with

1) a plan to review permitting structures as to lower costs and speed up turnaround;

2) how special funds can finance a targeted local incentive to complement the State credit and reward local hiring and more;

3) create rebate opportunities for property owners who offer discounted rates to qualifying productions — to increase inventory of affordable locations for vertical content creators; and

4) identify $5,000,000 in public and/or private/philanthropic funding sources to establish a "40% Launch & Rebate" grant. The grant would provide up-front funding to microdrama productions by offering a 40% rebate on qualifying LA expenditures with an initial 20% paid upfront upon project approval (to address cash-flow for small productions) and the remaining 20% paid upon completion.

It's a reality that LA-based filmmakers have been lured to other cities around the country because of incentives for these new, specific types of productions and it's imperative that Los Angeles step up before it's too late. The Valley is home to so many 'below the line' professionals and we owe it to them, and the next generation of filmmakers, to make it easier and more affordable to keep jobs and productions in LA.

# Valley Pride On A Bed Of Roses

**by Danrochelle D. Yumul**

Out here, we learn early that the San Fernando Valley is its own place. It's morning traffic on the 101, weekend errands at Topanga, Dodgers flags on porches from Pacoima to Porter Ranch, and family-owned spots that have been holding it down longer than most people have lived here. It's high school football lights, park birthday parties, studio jobs, small businesses, and neighborhoods where everybody has a story, and everybody has an opinion about what counts as "the Valley."

So when someone says, "Let's put the 818 on the world's biggest New Year's Day stage," it lands differently. For decades, the San Fernando Valley has been the backdrop of Southern California stories: movies and music, small businesses and family traditions, backyard citrus and neighborhood pride. Yet on one of the region's most visible stages, the Valley is sadly absent.

A volunteer-led nonprofit wants to change that.

The San Fernando Valley Rose Parade Organization is rallying the community around a bold goal: bring what it calls the Valley's first float to the Tournament of Roses Parade on January 1, 2027. It's not just about flowers and pageantry. It's about representation. It's about the Valley showing up with its name on the parade route, its pride on full display, and its identity impossible to miss.

At the helm of this campaign is none other than My Valley Pass, the official visitors' guide of the San Fernando Valley. In an interview with Tony Cabrera at ABC7 last month, Valley local and My Valley Pass founder Oscar Urrutia shared what this float would mean to the community.

"It's an international commercial for The Valley, of all its film history, all the culture that's here. Like I said, we're a big part of Los Angeles, but we're forgotten, so this is kind of our way of saying, look, The Valley is something unique and different," said Urrutia.

Because of all the ways the Valley powers L.A., from entertainment to aerospace, the perception gap is real. We're often treated like the punchline, the "other side of the hill," the place you pass through, not the place you celebrate. This float effort is a chance to flip that script with something unmistakably ours: a community-built statement that says the San Fernando Valley isn't an afterthought. It's home, and it deserves its moment in the spotlight.

And, the timing also feels right. Last month, the Tournament of Roses announced the 2027 theme: "Welcome," a celebration of belonging and the welcoming embrace of community. For the Valley, built on neighborhoods, cultures, small businesses, and "we've got our own thing going on" energy, the theme almost reads like an invitation: come on in, pull up a chair, you're part of this!

**For the Valley, built on neighborhoods, cultures, small businesses, and "we've got our own thing going on" energy, the (2027) theme almost reads like an invitation: come on in, pull up a chair, you're part of this!**

That's really what this campaign is. It's more than a float. It's a shared Valley project with a clear finish line: raise the funds, rally the volunteers, and roll into Colorado Boulevard with something that tells the extraordinary story of the 818.

For locals, organizations, and businesses who want to get involved, donate, and volunteer, visit sfvroseparade.org for ways to support the effort.

*Danrochelle D. Yumul is the Communications Manager of Cowe Communications. Follow @CoweOfficial or visit cowe.com for more.*

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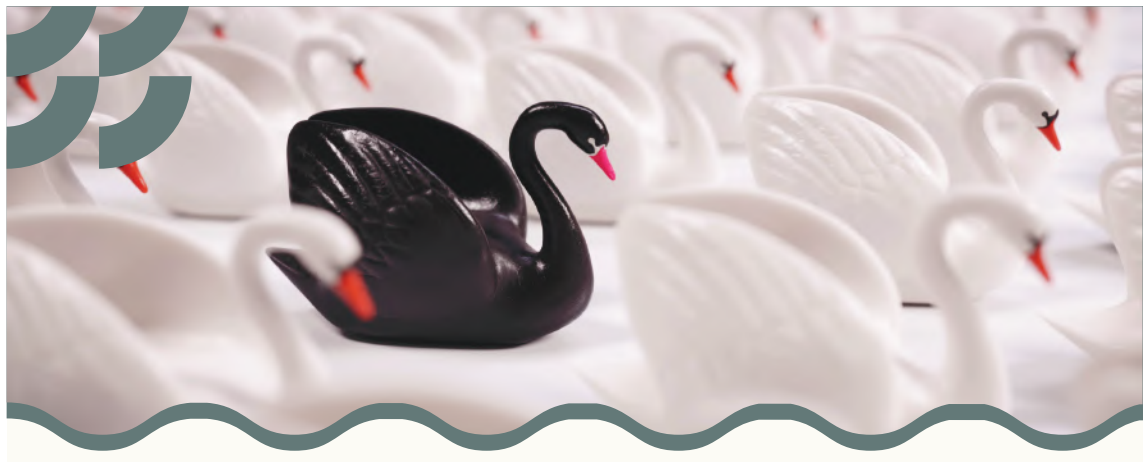

HEALTH


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On February 28, Allegiance Gold will host a complimentary educational seminar in Calabasas aimed at helping investors and retirees protect, preserve, and thoughtfully grow the wealth they've worked a lifetime to build.

The Wealth Protection Summit will be led by Alex Ebkarian, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Allegiance Gold, who brings more than 22 years of experience in the investment and financial services industry.

The event will focus on how physical gold and silver can be strategically incorporated into retirement accounts such as IRAs, 401(k)s, and TSPs — using tax-advantaged structures when done properly. Attendees will learn:

-Paper vs. Physical Assets: What many investors overlook.

-Portfolio Risk: The danger of overexposure to U.S. dollar, stocks and ETFs.

-Why Gold and Why Now: How metals can fit into retirement plans.

Rather than sales pitches, the summit centers on education and clarity. "Most people don't realize how exposed they are until the market reminds them," said Alex Ebkarian. "This isn't about fear — it's about awareness. If you understand how the system works, you can make smarter decisions. My goal is simple: give people clarity so they can protect what they've worked their whole lives to build."

Guests will enjoy free parking, light food and refreshments, and a comfortable educational environment, with a special raffle where attendees will have a chance to win a 1-oz silver coin.

The summit is ideal for individuals with portfolios of $50,000 or more who are concerned about inflation, market instability, or the long-term outlook of the U.S. dollar.

The event will take place at 27001 Agoura Road, Suite 200 in Calabasas on Saturday February, at 10 am.

To RSVP Call (844) 790-9191 or use the QR code on page 7 of this paper.


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Alex Ebkarian is the Co-Founder of Allegiance Gold, a nationally trusted precious metals firm. As a former banker, with over 25 years in finance, he helps investors protect their wealth through strategic gold ownership. A frequent financial media contributor, Alex brings insights on market risk, economic shifts, and long-term wealth protection.

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HEALTH

# Colorectal Cancer Rising in Young Adults

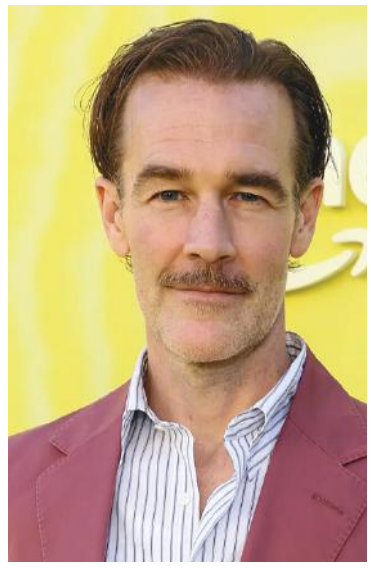


Photo: JC Olivera/GA/The Hollywood Reporter via Getty

With the recent deaths of Catherine O'Hara and James Van Der Beek, both suffering from colorectal cancer, health professionals are spotlighting how this disease is rising in young adults. According to a TIME report, "Today's young adults are about twice as likely to be diagnosed with colon cancer and four times as likely to be diagnosed with rectal cancer as those born around 1950." One in five individuals diagnosed are now under the age of 55.

Often individuals present with symptoms that include abdominal pain, rapid weight loss, rectal bleeding and iron deficiency. Due to young age, these symptoms are often misattributed to other things, but when diagnosis is reached, an individual often has more advanced and aggressive tumors.

While there isn't a clear answer as to why colorectal cancer is rising in younger adults, some health professionals point to an increasing rise of processed foods and sedentary lifestyles.

March is officially Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and recent celebrity deaths are only serving to bring this issue even more front-of-mind. Health professionals urge early detection as the prominent manner to combat the potential of this cancer emerging or progressing. Guidelines generally recommend scheduling regular screenings beginning at age 45 unless you have a family history or healthcare disparities that put you at a higher risk.

Given the nature of colorectal cancer, oftentimes individuals are embarrassed to talk about the issue, but the disease is often preventable or treatable if caught early. Know your body and recognize any drastic changes in bowel movement, inflammation and bleeding. Regular colonoscopies and stool tests are standard procedures to check for colorectal cancer and are often covered by insurance.

# The Reel History of the Valley

By Martin M. Cooper

# The Valley's Black Filmmakers: Behind the Cameras

The history of Black actors who lived or worked in the San Fernando Valley's film industry is not one of acceptance and equality, except for a few exceptions and for often-demeaning roles.

The history of those working behind the cameras is even less admirable.

For the first half of the 20th century, the studio gates were firmly shut when it came to Black executives, cinematographers, production designers, and other behind-the-scenes professionals. From the 1920s through the 1950s, the Valley's major film facilities churned out Westerns, screwball comedies, and noir thrillers — and yet few Black faces were in positions of importance behind the screen.

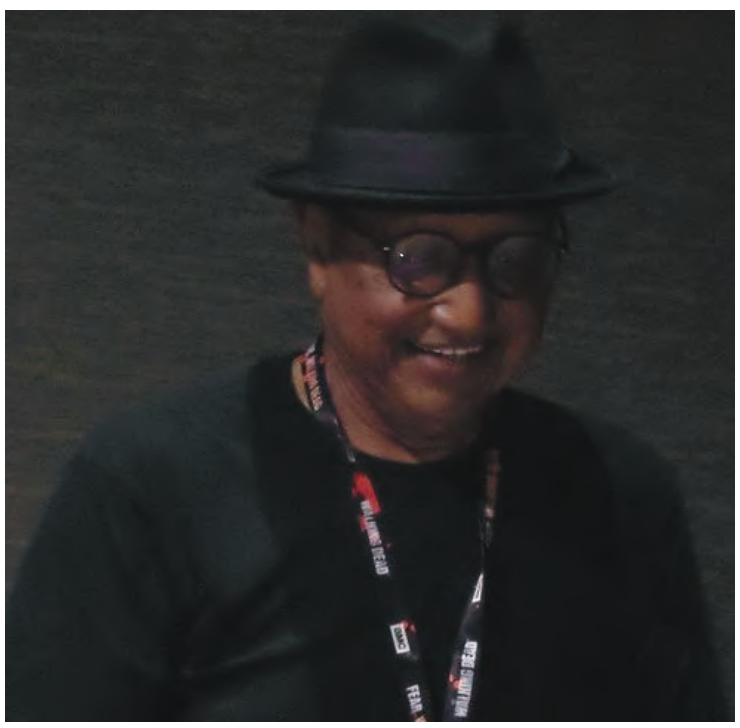
The four Valley studios – Universal, Disney, Warner Bros., and Radford – did not go out of their way to seek out technicians and other behind-the-camera filmmakers. It didn't help that Valley residential communities often had restrictive covenants that kept people of color from buying homes in the post-World-War II boom.

It wasn't just the studios that failed when it came to providing open doors to Black people. Film unions and guilds were notorious for policies inimical to inclusion of Black and brown people, while the many outside companies which provided services to studios and production houses were mostly owned and managed by white people.

But progress is being made, starting with the civil rights movement of the 1960s and continuing today. The gates guarding the film and television industries are opening up. While still few in number, studios have, since the 1970s, been placing Black executives in senior roles.

Nigerian born Pearlena Igboikwe is Chairman of Television Studios, NBC Entertainment & Peacock Scripted at NBCUniversal, where she oversees NBC Entertainment, including scripted, unscripted, late-night, and specials, as well as Peacock scripted programming and the company's major TV production studios.

Channing Dungey is Chairman and CEO at Warner Bros. Television Group & U.S. Networks, responsible for all scripted, unscripted, and animated TV production, as well as Warner Bros. Discovery's U.S. Networks portfolio.



*In 2007, Floyd Norman was named a Disney Legend.*

The San Fernando Valley became one of the most important gateways for Black creative authority in Hollywood. Few careers illustrate that evolution more clearly than those of Gordon Parks and Bill Duke, whose professional work spans feature films and television.

Gordon Parks entered feature filmmaking at Warner Bros. with *The Learning Tree* (1969), shot largely on location in Kansas but edited and produced within the studio in Burbank. When Parks directed *Shaft* (1971) and *Shaft's Big Score!* (1972), much of the post-production and studio oversight occurred within Valley-based infrastructure.

Parks became the first major Black director to exercise sustained control over studio features at the moment when the Valley supplanted Hollywood as the industry's nerve center. His success demonstrated that Black filmmakers could command authority within the studio system, not merely on independent margins.

Bill Duke has been an actor, director, producer, and screenwriter. Appearing as an actor in films such as *Car Wash* (1976), *American Gigolo* (1980), and *Commando* (1985), he transitioned into directing during the 1980s. Like many Black film professionals, Duke got his start in television, directing episodes of *Hill Street Blues, Miami Vice, Cagney & Lacey*, and later *The X-Files* – all series produced or post-produced at Universal Studios, Warner Bros. Television, and Radford Studio Center. He directed films such as *The Killing Floor* (1984), *A Rage in Harlem* (1991), and *Deep Cover* (1992).

*Channing Dungey speaking at a press tour of the Television Critics Association.*

Later Black directors followed the path Duke forged. Figures such as Ernest Dickerson, Carl Franklin, Mario Van Peebles, and Paris Barclay built résumés through Valley-based television before moving into feature films. Barclay became one of the most influential TV directors and producers, working extensively at Universal and Fox facilities in the Valley and later serving as president of the Directors Guild of America.

**Film unions and guilds were notorious for policies inimical to inclusion of Black and brown people, while the many outside companies which provided services to studios and production houses were mostly owned and managed by white people.**

Floyd Norman was Disney's first Black animator, beginning at the studio in the 1950s. He worked on *Mary Poppins* (1964), *The Jungle Book* (1967), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1996), *Mulan* (1998), *Dinosaur* (2000), and many more. Norman left Disney to co-found Vignette Films, Inc., producing six animated films on Black history. He rejoined Disney to work on several more films.

Frank Braxton was one of the first animators hired at both Disney and Warner Bros., starting as a Disney trainee before signing on at Warner Bros. He became the first Black president of the Screen Cartoonist's Guild…a memorable achievement in Hollywood union history.

Ron Husband was also a pioneering Black animator at Disney. He was at the studio for 38 years, starting in 1975. He eventually became a supervising animator. In a PBS documentary on him, *HUZ: Drawn to Life*, Husband said of his career that if you were Black, "You had to be twice as good as a white person just to break even."

These are just a few of the Black filmmakers who were twice as good.

*Martin Cooper, President of Cooper Communications, supervised PR for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences for 10 years; held executive positions with Disney and Universal Studios; and was Board Chairman of the UCLA Film & Television Archive. An award-winning author, he has written four books, two of them on the San Fernando Valley. His fifth book, The 'Reel' Hollywood: The San Fernando Valley, the history of motion pictures in the Valley, will be out soon.*

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# Divorced, Beheaded, Live! SIX Sing Its Way to Hollywood

Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived.

The Tony Award-winning musical *Six* comes to the Hollywood Pantages Theatre February 18 to March 8.

From Tudor queens to pop icons, the six wives of Henry VIII take the microphone to remix five hundred years of historical heartbreak into a euphoric celebration of 21st century girl power! This new original musical is the global sensation that everyone is losing their head over!

*Six* is a pop-concert musical by Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss that reimagines the six wives of Henry VIII as a modern girl group, with each queen telling her story to compete for the lead role in their band, ultimately reclaiming their narratives from their infamous husband.

The show, which premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2017, has become a global sensation, winning a Tony Award for Best Original Score and earning critical acclaim.

The six wives (Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, Catherine Howard, and Catherine Parr) hold a singing competition to see who had the worst time with Henry VIII, but they end up empowering each other.

*The New York Times* says *Six* "TOTALLY RULES!" (Critic's Pick) and *The Washington Post* hails *Six* as "Exactly the kind of energizing, inspirational illumination this town aches for!"

The "Six: Live on Opening Night" Broadway album debuted at Number 1 on the Billboard castalbum charts and surpassed one billion streams worldwide!

Tickets are available at broadwayinhollywood.com. The Pantages Theatre is located at 6233 Hollywood Blvd. just west of Vine in Hollywood.

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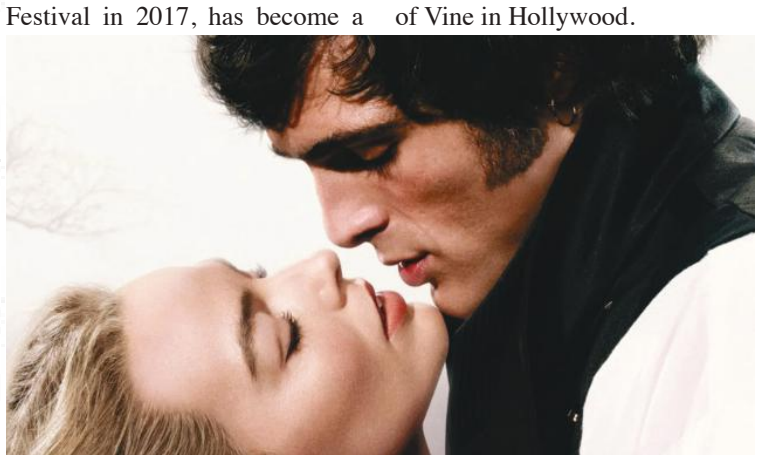


*Margot Robbie as Catherine and Jacob Elordi as Heathcliff.*

# Wuthering Heights is a Mismarketed Mess

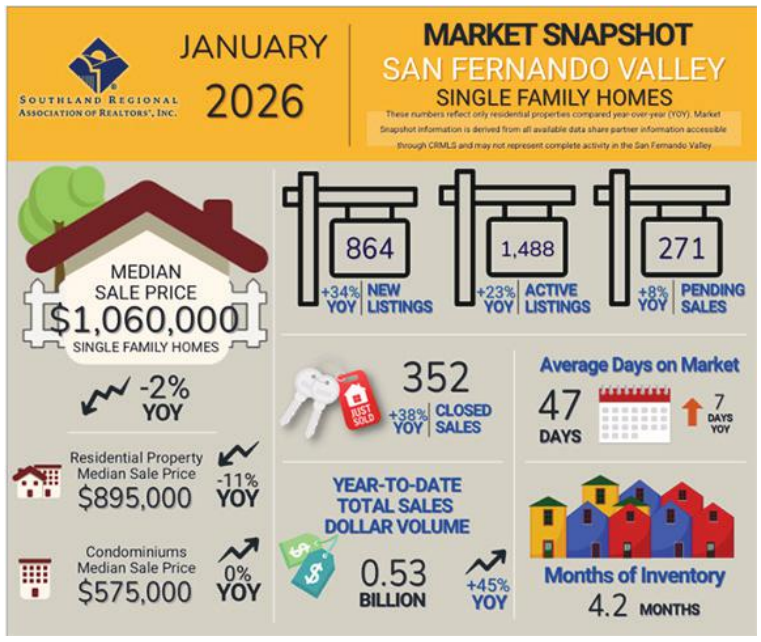
**By Katie Sterling**

Perhaps the greatest review that can summarize this movie is one taken from the Reddit forum that proclaims, "It's an adaptation that feels like a 14-year-old skimmed the book and jumped to her own conclusions without any true understanding of the novel."

If you're a fan of the classic Emily Brontë novel, Emerald Fennel's adaptation will feel like a fever dream. If you've seen her last movie, *Saltburn*, you know that sublety is not in her vocabulary and she loves nothing more than a sexually-charged scene strictly for shock value. This isn't necessarily a problem, but when your marketing is touting this as the "greatest love story ever told," unsuspecting viewers might not be prepared for how dark and disturbing this tale truly is. It's the epitome of horrible hot people behaving horribly, set to a soundtrack penned by a millenial singer who coined the term "brat summer."

The movie is visually stunning and the costumes are certainly something to talk about, but Fennel's take is more "Barbie and the Beast" as masochists in the moors rather than happily ever after. This *Wuthering Heights* is as if Gen Z BookTok adapted the film but never quite picked a lane to stick to, turning a classic novel into nothing more than melodramatic memes.

*Wuthering Heights* is now in theatres.




# Valley Home and Condo Resale Prices and Active Listings Surge

Closed escrows and active listings of homes and condominiums in the San Fernando Valley increased sharply during January while resale prices remained flat or fell, the Southland Regional Association of Realtors reported.

A total of 352 single-family homes and 136 condominiums changed owners last month for an increase of 37.5% and 44.7%, respectively, according to association statistics.

While well below the totals reported during the COVID pandemic in 2021 and 2022 of 697 and 618 respectively, the January home total was a giant leap from last year's 256 closed escrows. Similarly, the condominium tally was the highest for a January over the last four years, surpassed by the 196 condo transfers in January 2022 and the 2021 total of 221.

"It's a welcome robust start to the new year, especially with the increase in active listings offering prospective buyers many more options," said Nicole Stinson, the 2026 President of the 10,000-member Southland Regional Association of Realtors. "Interest rates are at their lowest levels since 2024 and expected to go lower in the coming months. It's possible people who have been sitting on the sidelines may decide to jump into the market.

"Plus, for the first time in multiple years," Stinson said, "homesellers are willing to consider concessions and growing numbers are flexible on pricing. We're inching closer to a more balanced market, where neither buyer nor seller have an advantage."

The median price of single-family homes that changed owners in January came in at $1,060,000, which was down 1.9% from a year ago and below the record high $1,150,000 set in June and again in September 2025. The association also reported the condominium median price at $575,000, which was unchanged from a year ago and the first time in 12 months that the condo median price was below the $600,000 benchmark.

"After watching resale prices climb higher nearly every month over more than a decade it's refreshing to see even slight increases in affordability," said Valerie Biletsky, the association's Chief Executive Officer. "There are plenty of lingering questions that could impact the national and local economies, yet the new year is showing promise for the local residential real estate market."

Combined pending sales – a measure of future closed escrows – came in at 352, down 29% from a year ago.

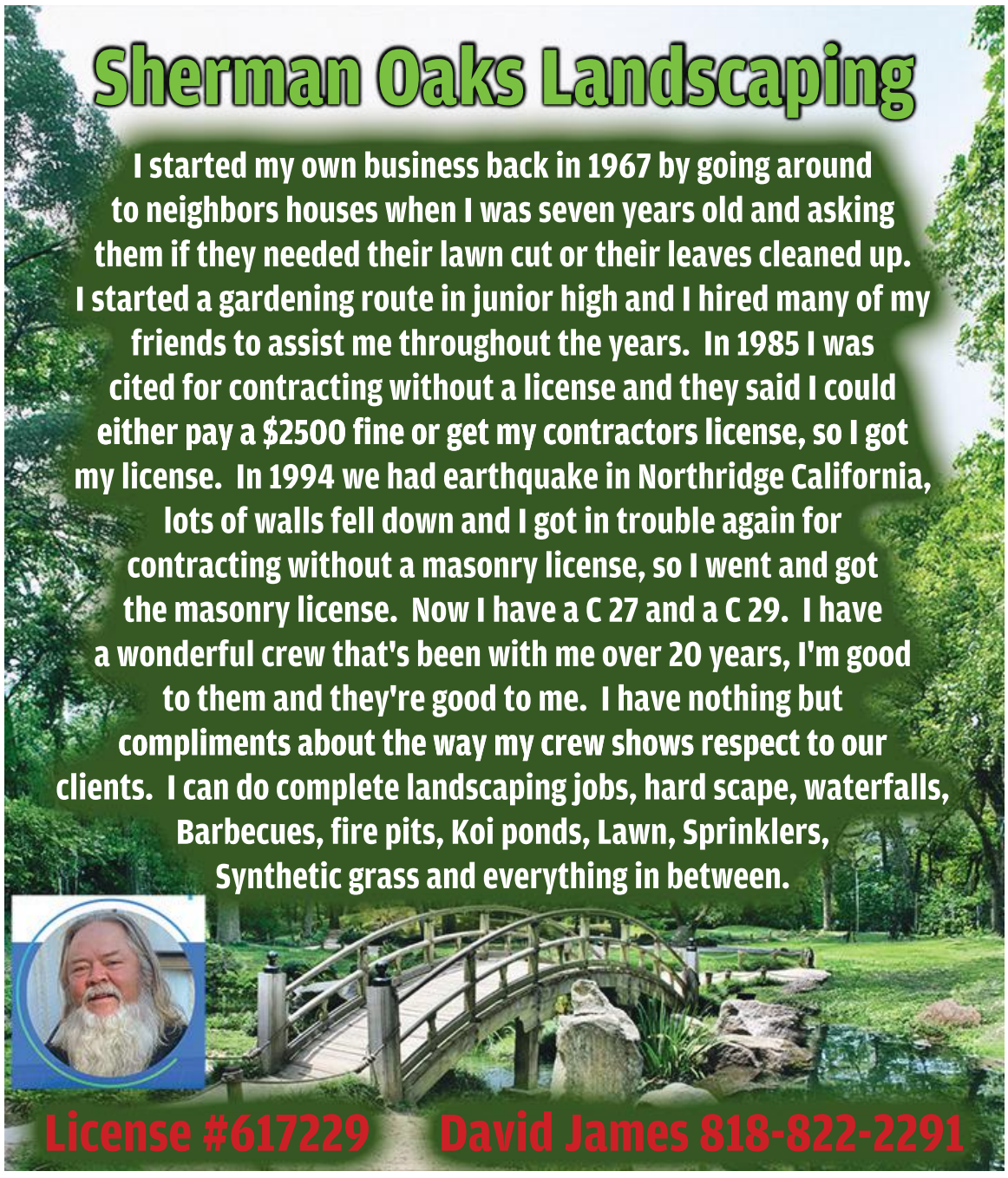
**Closed escrows and active listings of homes and condominiums in the Valley increased sharply during January while resale prices remained flat or fell.**

The 2,270 active listings, down 3% from January 2025, represented a 4.7-month inventory at the current pace of sales. That number is inching closer to the 38-year average of a 5.3-month supply, which is indicative of a balanced market.

SRAR's income-to-loan guide for January found that an income of $145,298 was needed to qualify for an 80% loan of $463,200 on a San Fernando Valley median-priced condominium of $579,000.

With the national average interest rate at 6.23% during January – the lowest since December 2024's 6.31% and well below the 7.79% of October 2023 – the income needed to qualify dropped 3.7% compared to a year ago. The monthly PITI — principal, interest, taxes and insurance payments — totaled $3,632.

Chartered by the National Association of Realtors in 1920, the Southland Regional Association of Realtors is the voice for real estate in San Fernando Valley.



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